

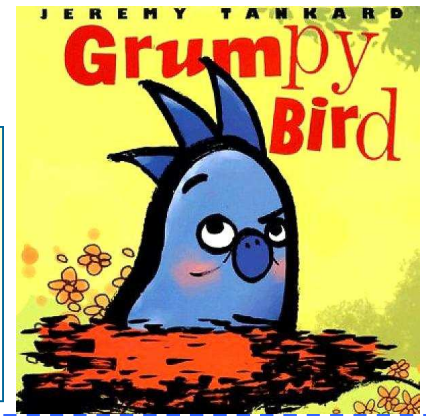
## July 2011

 From the Pierce County Library System

### Book of the Month:

**Grumpy Bird** by Jeremy Tankard

Grumpy bird is so grouchy, he doesn't even feel like flying so he goes off for a walk. One by one, the animals of the forest join him which won't improve his mood. Or will it? A very funny book for preschoolers.



### Other fun books about Flying

**Flying** by Donald Crews—a very simple book about a trip on a plane. All ages.

**Abuela** by Arthur Dorros—Beautiful book about a little girl and her grandmother who take off flying over Manhattan.

**A Frog Thing** by Eric Drachman—A young frog dreams of flying even though his family insist that it's impossible. Preschool and Young School-age.

**Flying** by Kevin Luthardt - A little boy questions his father about why he can't fly. An amusing book for toddlers and preschoolers.

**Moon Plane** by Peter McCarty— Watching a plane thorough his window, a little boy dreams about flying to the moon.

**Tar Beach** by Faith Ringold—A lovely book about a young girl who dreams of flying away from her “tar beach” roof in NYC. Older preschoolers and Young School-aged children.

**Let's Say Hi to Friends Who Fly** by Mo Willems—cute easy reader for all ages.

### Rhyme of the Month

Stretch your arms out to the side  
*(Stretch arm to either side)*  
Now behind you they must hide  
*(Put arms behind your back)*  
Stretch your arms up to the sky  
*(Stretch arms up above your head)*  
Now pretend that you can fly  
*(Flap your arms)*  
Clap your hands and sit right down  
*(Clap and sit on the floor)*  
Careful, do not make a sound!  
*(Put finger to lips)*

### Poem of the Month

If I could fly  
As high and low  
As the wind, as the wind,  
As the wind can blow...  
I'd go!

John Ciardi

Free STARS trainings are listed at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)  
In the Child Care section of the Parents/Caregivers menu

# Literacy ideas for July:

## Narrative Skills

Children's narrative skills (being able to describe things and understand the mechanics of telling a story) are best developed through meaningful conversations with people with high levels of narrative skills. (Predominantly adults)

Make it a point to engage each child in at least one good conversation this month. Think about particular things that interest that child and try to ask them open ended questions about it—what, why, and how questions. Repeat things that they tell you adding descriptive words whenever possible.

Not only is this good for the child's narrative skill building, but it's also a wonderful way to develop stronger, more positive relationships!

## Letter Awareness

### Letter Search

Cut out letters of the alphabet—both upper and lower case—and spread them on a table. Arrange the children around the table. Ask the children to point to a letter of their choice. Going around the table ask them to name the letter to which they are pointing.

Explain that you are going to call out a letter and you want them to point to it.

Let the children take turns calling out the letter to be identified.

Call out letters at random and take time to talk about upper case and lower case and when we would use one over the other.

For a change, add numbers to the mix as well!



## Vocabulary and Phonological Awareness

Talk to the children about the game, "I Spy". Tell them that to play the game, you say "I spy \_\_\_\_\_" and then you describe an object in the room without naming it. You continue to describe it until the other children can guess what it is. *(This game helps develop the children's vocabulary and their ability to describe things.)*

For a twist on this game, play "I Spy a Rhyme" and tell the children that you see something in the room that rhymes with "\_\_\_\_\_". Ask them to find objects in the room that rhyme with that word. Choose other easy rhyming words and keep playing!

## Have fun!

If you have questions about this newsletter or if you would like to register for STARS trainings, call 253-548-3424 or email [susana@piercecountylibrary.org](mailto:susana@piercecountylibrary.org) for details.